



Docket No. 49429 (71526)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

JAN 14 2002

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Applicants: Endou et al.

Serial No.: 09/424,347

Filed: July 18, 2000

GROUP: 1646

EXAMINER: J. Murphy

For: ORGANIC ANION TRANSPORTER AND GENE CODING FOR THE SAME

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Applicants submit herewith the following response to the Office Action dated September 11, 2001.

Applicants traverse the Restriction Requirement, in part. Specifically, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that consideration and examination of at least two groups specified in the Restriction Requirement should not impose an undue burden upon the USPTO.

In particular, Applicants submit that the subject matter of Groups II and VI are closely related and that consideration and examination of the two groups should not impose an undue burden upon the USPTO.

However, in order to provide a complete response, in the event that the two groups noted above may not be combined, Applicants elect Group VI as that group is defined in the Restriction Requirement.

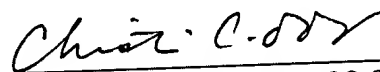
Applicants further respectfully request that rejoinder of Groups II and VI be considered by the Examiner following the search.

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The above election is being made solely to comply with the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action and the right to file divisional applications on non-elected subject matter is reserved.

Early consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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